

**MINUTES OF  
THE ANNUAL ELECTOR'S PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL, FELPHAM, PO22 8FA  
12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

**Members of the public were present.**

**Felpham Parish Councillors present:** Bob Budd, Tom Harty, Glen Hewlett, Russ Marsden-Sear, Gloria Moss, Graham Page, Russ Parkinson, Dave Smart, Pat Young, Maggie Wattling

**APM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None

**APM 2: TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025:**

The minutes were noted. There were no matters arising.

**APM 3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Councillor Russ Marsden-Sear read the Chairman's Report (attached to minutes).

**APM 5. COMMUNITY GROUP REPORTS**

**FELPHAM EMERGENCY RESILIENCE GROUP**

**Councillor Dave Smart and Councillor Gloria Moss updated residents on the work of FERG:**

- Training has continued throughout the year.
- A grant award from SSEN has enabled the purchasing of equipment to support the group.
- Volunteers are always welcome.
- ADC Emergency Planning listed FERG as tactical responders in respect of Climping.
- Further approaches have been made to FERG due to interest in resilience and a Bognor representative will be attending.
- Mid Sussex Resilience links have continued.
- Cadets and other Scout Groups will be invited to Fun in the Park

Jaine Wild advised FERG of the interesting training supplied by the West Sussex Coroner and suggested that this may be a potential future contact.

**APM 5. QUESTION TIME**

**Residents asked whether the Parish meeting could be advertised via social media:**

Councillor Glen Hewlett advised that an electronic newsletter is planned and will be produced shortly to keep residents updated.

Councillor Russ-Marsden-Sear commented on the positive Arun District Council app.

**Residents enquired regarding proposed works to extend the footpath across the grass at KGV playground:**

The Clerk advised that Arun District Council officers had undertaken a site visit and that work is expected to commence in this/next financial year.

**Residents commented on the large gap between bus stops on the 700 bus route through Felpham.**

**APM 6. ANY OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE**

None

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Approved.....Chairman Date.....



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025/2026**

Over the past year it has been an absolute honour and privilege to have been the Chairman of such a forward-thinking council through its third year of the current administration.

We have increased public communication via social media and made the council more accessible and approachable throughout the process.

This year, I have continued to concentrate on expanding and building our reputation and relationships with our other local parishes, authorities and organisations. I believe this has enabled us to strengthen our bonds and increased partnership working.

### **Planning Committee – Chair Glen Hewlett, Vice Chair Graham Page**

Under the direction of Cllr Glen Hewlett, the planning committee has continued to scrutinise planning applications throughout the parish ensuring that any plans are in keeping with our beautiful village and not detrimental to the wonderful street scene we have.

Glen and Vice Chair Cllr Graham Page make a formidable team who have worked tirelessly to ensure that Felpham Parishioner's views are voiced at various meetings across the year. Changes to planning policies this coming year will mean their experience and knowledge will be invaluable.

### **Allotments and Open Spaces – Chair Bob Budd, Vice Chair Pat Young**

The A&OS committee have continued over the year to manage our wonderful allotments spaces within Felpham (St Michael's and FAGS). We have continued to improve security at St Michael's meaning that once again unauthorised access and crime have been drastically reduced.

This year sees the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FAGS (Felpham Allotments and Garden Society) and in conjunction with the FAGS committee FPC will be unveiling a commemorative plaque and bench.

The committee also oversaw the planting of new trees along residential verges in the parish.

### **Finance Committee – Chair Glen Hewlett, Vice Chair Gloria Moss**

Under the guidance of Cllr Hewlett, the Finance committee has continued to show due diligence and good practices when dealing with parishioner's precept. Glen has been able to make changes to various budgets to ensure that we continue to be financially responsible. The committee has made savings and cuts to some budgets this year without affecting delivery or quality of service. The previous installation of solar panels is now cutting bills by a substantial amount. We have managed to continue to make small grants to local charities and clubs to

ensure that they can continue to serve our wonderful community. The grants committee continue to meet quarterly meaning that grants are made throughout the year rather than annually giving those clubs and community projects access to funding sooner rather than later. Nearly half of the councillors, including myself, still decline to take any councillor allowances. This means that we have been able to donate our allowances to good causes throughout Felpham including support for local clubs, a Christmas Day lunch for vulnerable people, Carers club, Animal rescue, and many more.

Projects and Community Involvement Committee – Chair Kirsty Halls, Vice Chair Emma Aylward

This committee has worked tirelessly to bring events and projects to the residents of Felpham. The 'Fun on the Prom' event continues to be the biggest annual event in Felpham attracting residents and visitors to the area in the thousands. Unfortunately, due to bad weather and winds the event had to be cancelled before the evening entertainment. However, this year we have decided to move the event to King George V Park giving us a larger area so we increase what we can offer on the day. In addition to the live entertainment and stalls we also plan to have a vintage and classic car show and a steam railway. Once again in conjunction with public feedback and a 'greener' future we will continue to use laser displays rather than fireworks.

October once again saw our unique 'Freaky Felpham' event for the third year. The event has proved so popular that we have had to split the day into three separate sessions including a session for under 5s. Tickets were available to residents free of charge. A total of 500 tickets were collected within just 1 week. This year saw hundreds of people, adults and children, dress up and walk through our wonderful village celebrating Halloween. Children were asked to collect and solve clues on their route finally leading them to a wonderful, themed party at the end. Thanks to many volunteers and councillor involvement, this event remains a free event. The feedback again was humbling, and it now seems the wish of residents this is now cemented as an annual event in Felpham's calendar. Freaky Felpham will take place again this coming year to support families and children throughout the parish, creating a safe, fun, and free organised event.

This year also saw the co-option of 3 new councillors meaning that the council is at the full strength of 16.

A special mention must be made to our outstanding Clerk and RFO, Nicola Meaney and Doug Millen. Their dedication, support and knowledge is, without doubt, exceptional. I would like to quote from a recent audit which remarked "The processes and procedures together with own built-in controls are robust, strictly followed and in many respects a model of good practice."

Once again, thank you Felpham for being the most amazing, caring and thoughtful parish. A wonderful place to live.

It has been an honour to serve you for a third year.

Russ Marsden-Sear, Chairman of Felpham Parish Council